

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising a liquid-impermeable outer layer sheet and an absorber fixed on the outer layer sheet, a gather portion having a flexible elastic member formed on a predetermined position, wherein the article has a substantially long shape, an abdomen side region, groin region and back side region for placing on a wearer's abdomen, a groin and back region for placing on a wearer while wearing respectively along it in the longitudinal direction, wherein

an oily skin care agent is applied on a predetermined region of the absorbent article on which a water-soluble skin care agent is also applied,

the water-soluble skin care agent is applied on ~~the whole~~ an entirety of the surface to be contacted with the skin of a wearer of the gather portion, and

the oily skin care agent is applied directly on the water-soluble skin care agent, such that at least a part of the oily skin care agent is able to be transferred to the skin of a wearer when worn before the water-soluble skin care agent is able to be transferred to the skin of the wearer.

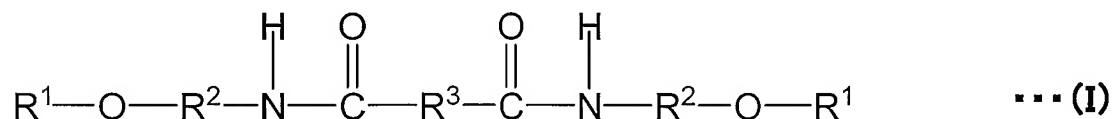
2. (Original) The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined position contains a longitudinal direction end of the abdomen side region or back side region, the gather portion formed at the longitudinal direction end is a waist gather portion formed by placing a flexible elastic member so as to extend along the width direction of the absorbent article.

3. (Original) The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein leg opening portions are provided on both sides along the width direction of the groin region so that the width of the groin region is narrower than the maximum width of the back side region and abdomen side region, and

the predetermined position includes a position adjacent to the leg opening portion along the width direction and the gather portion formed on each position is a leg gather portion formed by placing a flexible elastic member so that the leg opening portion can be placed around the leg of a wearer when wearing.

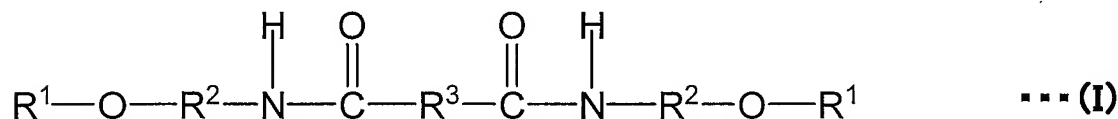
4. (Original) The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined position includes positions adjacent respectively to the left and right ends along the width direction of the absorber, and the gather portion formed on each position is a standing guard formed by placing a flexible elastic member along the longitudinal direction of the absorber.

5. (Original) The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble skin care agent is a plant extract and the oily skin care agent is a diamide derivative of the following formula (I)



(wherein,  $R^1$  represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms optionally substituted with a hydroxy group and/or alkoxy group,  $R^2$  represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and  $R^3$  represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 42 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkylene group having 11 to 42 carbon atoms or an alkenylene group having 1 to 4 double bonds).

6. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising at least a liquid-impermeable outer layer sheet, an absorber fixed on the outer layer sheet and a liquid-permeable surface sheet covering the absorber on plane view, a water-soluble skin care agent and a diamide derivative of the following formula (I)



(wherein,  $R^1$  represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms optionally substituted with a hydroxy group and/or alkoxy group,  $R^2$  represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and  $R^3$  represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 42 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkylene group having 11 to 42 carbon atoms or an alkenylene group having 1 to 4 double bonds) applied on the surface sheet, wherein

the absorbent article has a waist flap which can be placed around the waist of a wearer when wearing the absorbent article, and a leg flap which can be placed from around the groin to around the femoral of a wearer when wearing the absorbent article,

wherein the water-soluble skin care agent is applied on ~~the whole~~ an entirety of the surface of the waist flap and/or the leg flap, and

wherein the diamide derivative is applied on the waist flap and/or the leg flap directly on the water-soluble skin care agent.

7. (Original) The absorbent article according to Claim 6, wherein the article has a standing guard adjacent to the absorber and extending along the longitudinal direction of the absorber, and the diamide derivative is applied on the standing guard.

8. (Original) The absorbent article according to Claim 6, wherein silicone is applied in addition to the diamide derivative.

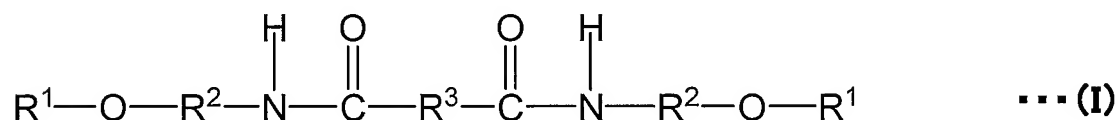
9. (Original) A method of suppressing rash of skin, using the absorbent article according to Claim 1.

10. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein a surfactant is applied together with the water-soluble skin care agent.

11. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble skin care agent is applied on the absorbent article by applying a liquid coating agent containing the water-soluble skin care agent and drying the liquid.

12. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the absorbent article comprises a non-woven fabric, and wherein the water-soluble skin care agent is applied on the fibers of the non-woven fabric.

13. (New) The absorbent article according to Claim 1, wherein the water-soluble skin care agent consists of a plant extract and the oily skin care agent consists of a diamide derivative of the following formula (I)



(wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents a linear or branched hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms optionally substituted with a hydroxy group and/or alkoxy group, R<sup>2</sup> represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 12 carbon atoms, and R<sup>3</sup> represents a linear or branched divalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 42 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkylene group having 11 to 42 carbon atoms or an alkenylene group having 1 to 4 double bonds).